

1 ALDERSON COURT REPORTING

2 SHAYLAH LYNN BURRILL

3 HJU071010

4 ADOPTION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S RULES OF PROCEDURE AND
5 STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR PRIVATE IMMIGRATION BILLS; AND
6 REQUEST FOR A DHS DEPARTMENTAL REPORT ON THE BENEFICIARIES OF
7 H.R. 1548

8 Tuesday, March 12, 2019

9 House of Representatives

10 Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

11 Committee on the Judiciary

12 Washington, D.C.

13 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 11:04 a.m.,
14 in Room 2237, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Zoe Lofgren
15 [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

16 Present: Representatives Lofgren, Jayapal, Correa,
17 Garcia, Scanlon, Buck, Biggs, McClintock, Armstrong, and
18 Steube.

19 Staff Present: David Shahoulian, Chief Counsel,
20 Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship; Betsy Lawrence,

21 Counsel; Rachel Calanni, Professional Staff; Andrea Loving,
22 Minority Chief Counsel; James Rust, Minority Counsel; Andrea
23 Woodard, Minority Professional Staff Member; and Jon Ferro,
24 Minority Parliamentarian.
25

26 Ms. Lofgren. The Subcommittee on Immigration and
27 Citizenship will please come to order.

28 A quorum being present, without objection, the chair is
29 authorized to declare a recess at any time.

30 Everyone is welcomed to our first hearing. Pursuant to
31 notice, I now call up the subcommittee's Rules of Procedure
32 and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration Bills for
33 purpose of markup and move that the subcommittee report them
34 favorably to the committee. The clerk will report.

35 Ms. Calanni. The Subcommittee on Immigration --

36 Ms. Lofgren. I ask unanimous consent that the reading
37 of the rules be considered read and open for amendments.

38 [The rules follow:]

39

40 Ms. Lofgren. I will begin by recognizing myself for a
41 very brief opening statement.

42 The primary focus of these rules is to establish the
43 standard requirements for consideration of private bills.
44 These standards were set on a bipartisan basis and have
45 effectively been in place for about 30 years. These rules
46 have not changed in any substantive way from the last
47 Congress.

48 I would now be happy to yield to the ranking member,
49 Mr. Buck, for any comments he may wish to make.

50 Mr. Buck. Thank you, Madam Chair.

51 And I would, to expedite this hearing, offer my remarks
52 in written form for the record.

53 Ms. Lofgren. The gentleman's statement will be included
54 in the record.

55 [The statement of Mr. Buck follows:]

56

57 Ms. Lofgren. And the statement of any Member who wishes
58 to submit a statement will also by unanimous consent be
59 included in the record.

60 [The information follows:]

61

62 Ms. Lofgren. If there are no more amendments, the
63 question is on adopting the subcommittee Rules of Procedure
64 and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration Bills.

65 All those in favor will say aye.

66 Opposed will say no.

67 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and a
68 majority having voted in favor, the rules and policy of the
69 subcommittee are adopted and reported favorably to the full
70 committee. And without objection, the staff is directed to
71 make any technical and conforming changes.

72 We have before us noticed a request for a report on
73 H.R. 1548, and pursuant to notice, the chair now calls up
74 H.R. 1548, a private bill for the release of Maria Carmen
75 Castro Ramirez and J. Refugio Carreno Rojas.

76 [The bill follows:]

77

78 Ms. Lofgren. The chair calls up the bill for purposes
79 of requesting a department report from the Department of
80 Homeland Security. For the sake of timeliness, I ask
81 unanimous consent that my statement on the bill be made a
82 part of the record.

83 Without objection, it will be made.

84 [The statement of Ms. Lofgren follows:]

85

86 Ms. Lofgren. I would like to note the subcommittee
87 voted to request a report on this bill during the 115th
88 Congress. Because Congress adjourned before this bill was
89 enacted at the end of the 115th Congress, our subcommittee
90 must once again begin the process of moving this private bill
91 through Congress. That process begins with a request for a
92 report from DHS.

93 I would now recognize Mr. Buck for any comments that he
94 may have on this.

95 Mr. Buck. I thank the chairwoman, and I have no
96 comments.

97 Ms. Lofgren. Any other Member wish to be heard on the
98 bill?

99 [No response.]

100 Ms. Lofgren. If not, the chair will now entertain a
101 motion to request that DHS provide the subcommittee with a
102 department report on H.R. 1548. I note that this request for
103 a report does not provide a final decision on this private
104 bill. The request for a report is simply the first step in
105 the private bill process to learn more about the case from
106 the agency responsible.

107 All those in favor of the motion to request a report
108 will say aye.

109 Opposed will say no.

110 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the

111 motion is adopted, and the request will be made to DHS to
112 provide the subcommittee with a department report on
113 H.R. 1548.

114 I will note for the record that we have received a
115 request, a bipartisan letter from a number of members on
116 H.R. 1547, a private bill for the relief of Malachy
117 McAllister and his children. That is not noticed for this
118 subcommittee hearing. So we will notice that hearing for
119 Thursday at a time that will work for Members, so that all
120 Members will have an opportunity to read the letter from our
121 colleagues and consider the request.

122 If there is nothing further, we will adjourn this first
123 meeting.

124 Thank you. We are adjourned.

125 [Whereupon, at 11:08 a.m., the subcommittee was
126 adjourned.]